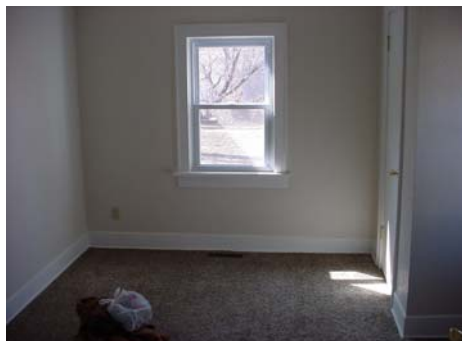


## Neighborhood Improvement Services Lends a Hand

In the fall of 2002, Community Police Officer **Lamar Wallace** contacted **Michael Hollimon** of the Housing Services Department's Neighborhood Improvement Services Division regarding **Dorothy Lott**. Dorothy was a citizen of Wichita living in a house in *extremely* poor condition. The house had no components other than walls and a roof, and was overgrown with trees, vegetation, and trash. Community Police, Fire Department, and other City personnel volunteered their time to clean up the property. Neighborhood Improvement Services provided the financial means and housing rehab experience to help transform the dilapidated house into a beautiful new home. Rehab of the house was completed in early March. On March 14, with friends, supporters, and television crews looking on, Dorothy cut the red ribbon to begin life in her lovely home.



BEFORE



AFTER



RIBBON CUTTING



### Better Safe than Sorry

With summer coming, many of us have started leaving our windows and doors open — even when not at home. The Wichita Police Department reminds us that most thefts are crimes of opportunity. There are products you can buy that will keep your windows from opening far enough to let a person inside your home. If you have any questions or problems with home security issues, please call your local Community Policing officer(s) and arrange to meet with them. Check with your neighbors and pass this information along to them, too.

### NEW HOUSING SERVICES EMPLOYEE

Please welcome our newest Housing Services staff member! **Pat Harder** has accepted the Clerk II position and transferred from the Airport Authority. She has an extensive background in customer service, data entry, maintenance and dispatch. Pat's smiling face and pleasant demeanor will be an excellent addition to our Department. Please make her feel welcome.

## SECTION 8 LANDLORDS

### Extension Request for Unit Inspection

For fairness and consistency, the Section 8 office has established the following policy and procedures for receiving and processing requests for Housing Quality Standards compliance deadlines, including the conditions under which extensions will be granted to Section 8 clients and landlords.

1. Extensions will not be granted without just cause.
2. Verbal extensions will not be granted. All extensions must be submitted in writing, emailed, or faxed to the Section 8 office.
3. Extensions will not be granted at initial inspections.
4. Extensions will not be granted for life threatening violations requiring corrections within 24 hours.
5. Extension requests must be received 7 days prior to any scheduled inspection.

New and additional information has been added to the departmental website. The website also offers extension request forms to assist with communication. Information and forms can be found at [www.wichita.gov/housing/section8.asp](http://www.wichita.gov/housing/section8.asp).

### Inclement Cold Weather Plan

The Section 8 office granted landlords extensions to correct deteriorated paint cited at annual and special inspections performed during the period November 1, 2002 through April 30, 2003, because of inclement weather conditions. Re-inspections of these properties will be completed on all rental units granted this extension in the near future.

Landlords who failed to make Lead-Base Paint corrections by the April 30, 2003 deadline will receive notification from the Section 8 office of "Intent to Stop" payments. If corrections are not made within 30 days of the abatement effective date, the Housing Assistance Payment Contract will automatically terminate and the client will be issued a Voucher to relocate.

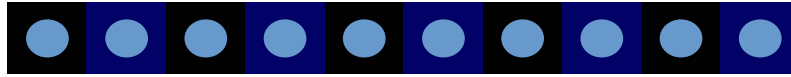
If you have a dwelling unit in the Section 8 program that pre-dates 1978, Lead-Base Paint preventative maintenance should be started now, while weather conditions permit. Landlords should complete a whole house visual inspection on the interior and exterior of dwelling units before a scheduled inspection. Lead Safe Work Practices should be used at all times when making repairs.

Landlords, your initiative to take a visual assessment on your rental units will help keep families safe from lead poisoning.

## SECTION 8 CLIENTS

Information and forms especially for YOU are now available on our website.

IF YOU ARE A CURRENT SECTION 8 CLIENT and are searching for a new home accepting Section 8 Rental Assistance, visit our website at [www.wichita.gov/housing/section8.asp](http://www.wichita.gov/housing/section8.asp). Click on the 'Rental Listing' link for a searchable database of available units within the city! Continue to visit our website for new forms and information posted for your convenience.



## Spotlight On FSS

On April 10, 2003, the FSS program presented a workshop on the topic of domestic abuse. **Lynn Patton** from the District Attorney's office presented information on how to obtain a "Protection From Abuse" order and **Tim Cunningham** from Stepstone presented information on transitional housing for victims of domestic abuse. **Kelli Garst** and **Amanda Atwood** shared their personal experience with domestic abuse and how they managed to overcome. Housing Leasing Specialists **Diane Boyd** and **Vallery Fields** presented a skit. Approximately one-hundred families were in attendance. Based on the evaluations and responses from the participants, the workshop was an overwhelming success!

The next workshop will be May 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 and the topic is *Literacy*. **Margaret Harris** from WATC-Dunbar Campus will present information on how to prepare for the GED exam as well GED classes. *Registration is necessary for those who are not in the FSS program but would like to attend.* Please call the office at 268-4688. Seating is limited so please arrive early. We will start promptly at 6:30 p.m.



*Crysta Gulley (left) receives her escrow funds from FSS Coordinator Vallery Fields*

### *Congratulations to our Most Recent Graduates!*

**Lakelia Hughes** has become a homeowner and **Crysta Gulley** has completed her goal of financial independence and no longer receives Section 8 rental assistance. Lakelia and Crysta, we are proud of you!

### *Congratulations to Vallery Fields*

**Vallery Fields**, FSS Coordinator for Housing Services, has completed her FSS training and successfully passed the certification! Way to go Vallery!



*Lakelia Hughes (left) receives her escrow funds from FSS Coordinator Vallery Fields*

## Home Maintenance for Homebuyers

New and old homebuyers alike will benefit from these handy tips for May and June!

- Check around the house for pests and problems, i.e. wasp and hornet nests, termite tunnels, etc.
- Check caulking for air and water leaks
- Lubricate weather-stripping
- Check doors and exterior finishes
- Check outbuildings
- Check roof, windows and screens
- Check water heater
- Check and clean awnings and outdoor furniture
- Clean and service central or window air conditioners, attic fans and turbine vents
- Clean range hood filter
- Ensure ground slopes away from house
- Lawn fertilizer and weed control
- Prune trees and shrubs before buds appear.
- Loosen turf and reseed and till soil in garden
- Inspect crawl space for termite or water damage
- Inspect fences
- Repair leaky faucets
- Test smoke alarms and CO detectors
- Touch up peeling paint on the exterior of the house.

**Wichita Housing Services Department**

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## PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS

### That Drop Box is for YOUR Convenience!

To better serve our tenants we have provided an easier way to pay your monthly rent! You can pay your rent by check/money order by using the drop box conveniently located right by the front door outside the Housing Services building located at 332 N. Riverview.

That's right! During regular business hours you don't even need bother coming into the office. Just quickly and conveniently drop your payment in the box outside and you can be on your way!

Avoid the \$15 late charge by making your payment off business hours. It's an easy way to pay your bill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Remember to enclose the payment coupon with your check or money order.

